

### ABSTRACT

A system and method for protecting from the loss of data in an optical data network includes receiving the data over a service optical fiber line, delaying reception of the data over a protection optical fiber line by a first delay amount with respect to the reception of the data over the service optical fiber line, and detecting a fault condition in the service optical fiber line. In response to the detection of the fault condition, the transmission of data over the protection optical fiber line is received. The first delay amount corresponds to at least the amount of time to switch to the reception of the data over the protection optical fiber line from the reception of the data over the service optical fiber line after the detection of the fault condition.

0941055.072504